



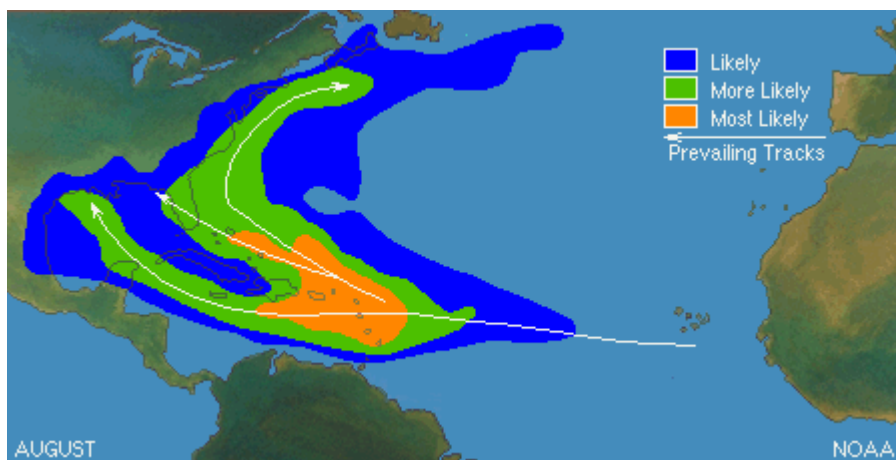
NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Miami, Florida 33165

Tropical Storm/Hurricane Climatology

Mainland South Florida - August

In a typical year, Atlantic tropical cyclone activity picks up during the month of August. August is the month where “Cape Verde” hurricanes begin to form. These are hurricanes born from tropical waves exiting the African coast, tracking towards the Caribbean or the East Coast of the United States. The image below shows the typical tracks for August tropical cyclones:



Since 1851, a total of 20 named storms have affected Mainland South Florida during the month of August, including 10 hurricanes, 5 of which were major hurricanes (Category 3 or greater). Historical records show that August ranks third in the number of hurricanes affecting Mainland

South Florida, behind September and October. The southeast Florida coast has been most prone to tropical storms and hurricanes in August (being affected by 17 systems), while the southwest Florida coast has been affected much less, a total of 10 times. The only year with 2 named storms affecting Mainland South Florida in August was 1871, when 2 hurricanes impacted the area, one being major.

Five major hurricanes have either directly or indirectly affected Mainland South Florida during the month of August. Here is a listing of these major hurricanes.

August 16, 1871

This hurricane developed east of the Bahamas on the 14th, tracking west and making landfall near Jupiter on the 16th as a major hurricane. This hurricane moved northwest into central and north Florida while weakening to a tropical storm. Lowest estimated central pressure was 955 mb measured by a ship near Jupiter.

August 16, 1888

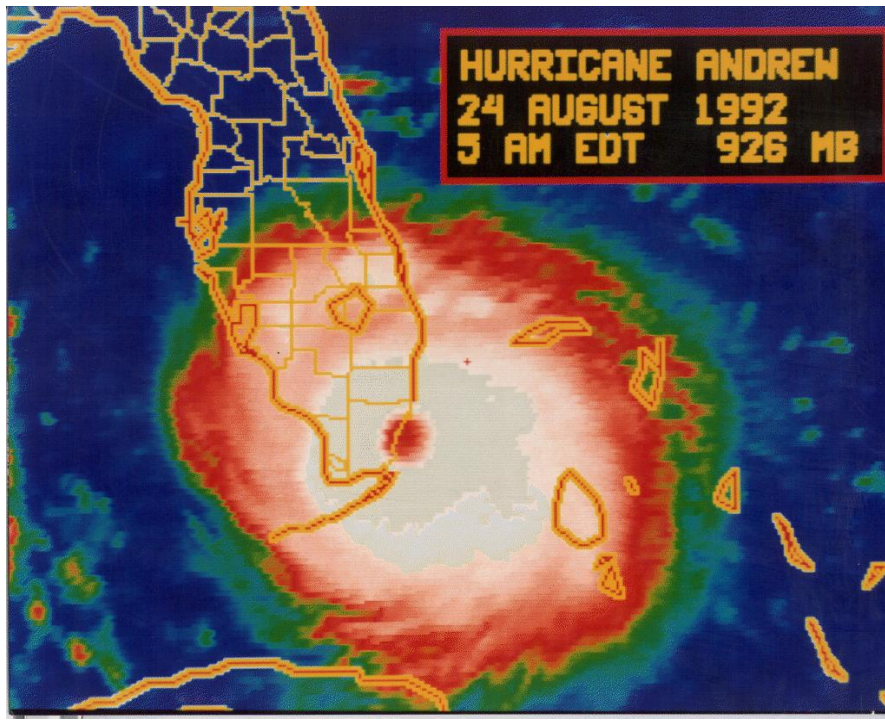
This hurricane developed just north of the Dominican Republic on August 14th, then tracked west northwest across the Bahamas on the 15th, making landfall near present-day Miami on the 16th as Category 3 hurricane. This hurricane moved west-northwest and exited the Gulf coast near present-day Naples late on the 16th. Little is known about the full impacts of this storm in south Florida. However, a 14-foot storm tide was believed to have impacted the lower southeast Florida coast.

August 26, 1949

A tropical storm developed just northeast of the northern Leeward Islands on August 23rd, then tracked west northwest north of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola on the 24th, across the Bahamas on the 25th, reaching the

Palm Beach County coast on the 26th as a Category 4 hurricane. The hurricane moved northwest across northern portions of Lake Okeechobee, then continued northwest to just north of Tampa by the 27th while weakening to a tropical storm. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse measured a peak wind of 153 mph before the wind instrument failed, and winds of 120 mph were estimated at West Palm Beach. The minimum pressure was 954 mb, and the eye passed right over the city of West Palm Beach. Sand and debris washed ashore on Palm Beach. Winds of 100 to 125 mph were also measured around Lake Okeechobee, making it the strongest storm to affect the Lake area since the 1928 hurricane.

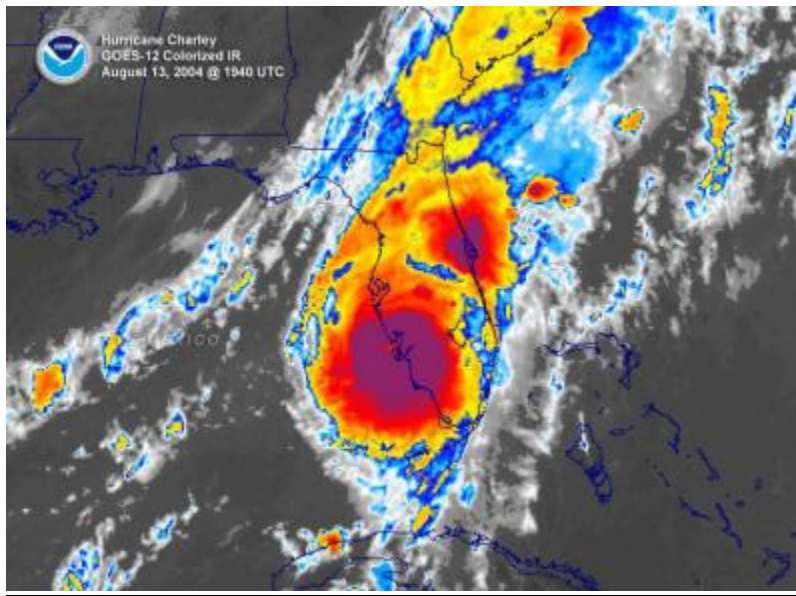
Category 5 Hurricane Andrew - August 24, 1992



Hurricane Andrew is the strongest storm on record to strike Mainland South Florida. It was the first storm of the season in 1992, and grew to a Category 5 hurricane which ravaged south Florida, especially Miami-Dade County, during the early morning hours of August 24th. Andrew

developed in the tropical Atlantic well east of the Leeward Islands on August 17th, tracking west northwest and eventually northwest well north of Puerto Rico over the next several days while maintaining Tropical Storm strength. Andrew made a turn due west by the 22nd while rapidly intensifying on the 23rd and slamming onshore Miami-Dade County on the morning of the 24th as a powerful Category 5 hurricane with a minimum central pressure of 922 mb and maximum sustained winds of 165 mph. Andrew devastated portions of Miami-Dade County, with the worst damage occurring from Homestead to Perrine, with damage estimated at around \$26.5 billion dollars, making it the second costliest hurricane to affect the United States. In Miami-Dade County alone, a total of 15 people died as a direct result of the hurricane, with an additional 25 deaths indirectly attributed to the storm. Up to a quarter of a million people were temporarily left homeless.

Category 4 Hurricane Charley - August 13, 2004



Charley developed just east of the southern Windward Islands on August 9th, tracked west northwest across the Caribbean over the next several days before turning north across western Cuba on the 12th, then reaching

the southwest Florida coast on the 13th making landfall just north of Captiva Island, then moving the Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda area as a Category 4 hurricane. The strongest winds of Charley remained north of Collier, Glades and Hendry counties, although gusts to around 80 mph were noted in northern Collier and western Hendry counties. A total of 3 people died in Collier County from indirect causes after the storm. Damage in Hendry, Glades and western Collier counties consisted primarily of numerous power poles, trees and signs blown down, with some instances of roof damage as well.